

more sympathetic to plaintiffs who were pursuing careers in law. Finally, by challenging segregation in graduate schools, the NAACP lawyers would bypass the inflammatory issue of miscegenation among young children.

The successful ruling handed down in the Brown decision was testament to the master strategy formulated by Houston. This strategy is often referred to as the Houstonian philosophy of social engineering, based upon his legendary saying "A lawyer's either a social engineer or he's a parasite on society." . . . A social engineer was a highly skilled, perceptive, sensitive lawyer who understood the Constitution of the United States and knew how to explore its uses in the solving of "problems of . . . local communities" and in "bettering conditions of the underprivileged citizens."

Houston's philosophy has left a lasting mark on Howard University School of Law as evidenced by the quantity and quality of its graduates, producing more Black lawyers than any other institution. Further, as outlined in the text of this resolution, Howard trained lawyers have excelled and climbed to some of the highest leadership positions in the world.

The first African-American to serve as a Member of Congress, John Mercer Langston, was also a member of the Howard University School of Law community. Today's Congress also includes a Member of the Howard University School of Law, namely Mr. MEEK of New York. U.S. Senator ROLAND BURRIS of Illinois, the only African-American in the other Chamber, is a 1963 graduate of Howard Law.

Howard University School of Law alumni also serve in a variety of staff posts throughout both houses of Congress. In my tenure, I've hired numerous Howard law alumni. Currently, both my Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel are both outstanding alumni of Howard University School of Law.

In my District, Howard University School of Law alumni have a distinguished legacy, particularly in the judiciary. Two Houston jurists exemplify the Howard University School of Law legacy. The Honorable Gabrielle Kirk McDonald graduated first in her class at Howard University Law School in 1966. Upon returning home to Houston, Judge McDonald practiced as a private lawyer until her appointment as a United States District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. At the age of 37, Judge McDonald made history by becoming the first African-American to be appointed to the federal judiciary of Texas. She was only the third African-American woman to be ever selected for the federal judiciary.

In 1993, Judge McDonald presided over the three-judge panel that heard the first criminal trial of that international court, sitting in a courtroom of the new Tribunal building in The Hague, Netherlands. By this service, Judge McDonald became one of the first United States judges to be involved in international courts, apart from the International Court of Justice and the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Before hearing the first case of the International Criminal Tribunal in Yugoslavia, Judge McDonald and her colleagues had to develop procedural rules for the Tribunal. She consulted with colleagues at Texas Southern University where she was a member of the adjunct faculty at that university's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Those consultations resulted in the preparation and adoption of the first procedural rules for the Tribunal.

Judge McDonald, so well regarded by her colleagues, was sent by the United Nations to Tanzania, in Africa, in the spring of 1997 to assist in the organizing efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, established by the U.N. to hear cases involving genocide in that country.

In November 1997 she was elected President of both criminal tribunals, a position she held until her resignation from that position in 1999.

She now serves as one of three American judge/arbitrators on the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal in The Hague, hearing claims by Iranian and U.S. citizens, and the respective governments of the two countries, that resulted from the take-over of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 by Iranian militants and the holding of U.S. Embassy personnel as hostages.

The Honorable Hazel B. Jones of the 338th Texas District Court is a 1996 alumnae of Howard University School of Law. Born and reared in Houston, Texas, Judge Jones developed a sense of commitment to the Houston community by witnessing the examples of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Larnita Jones, who served as educators and administrators in North Forest ISD and Houston ISD, respectively, for more than thirty years.

Judge Jones attended Mary Brantly Smiley High School in North Forest Independent School District, where she was voted "Miss Smiley" and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Thereafter, Judge Jones received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a Texas Achievement Award Scholar and became a lifelong member of Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Inc.

After graduation, Judge Jones worked as a research assistant in the Hematology/Leukemia division of the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She prepared drug study experiments with cancer cells; she performed DNA extraction for amplification in polymerase chain reactions and isolation in gel electrophoresis. While Judge Jones found her work in cancer research extremely rewarding, she heeded a personal calling to pursue a career in law.

While attending Howard University Law School, in Washington, DC, Judge Jones worked at the Howard Law Criminal Justice Clinic, defending citizens charged with misdemeanors and representing prisoners in disciplinary hearings. During her summers as a law student, Judge Jones honed her legal skills by interning in the 151st Civil District Court, Harris County, TX and as intern for the Honorable Judge Vanessa Gilmore in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Since graduating from law school, Judge Jones Hazel Jones has been an active member of Houston's legal community. She served the Harris County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney from 1996–2003 obtaining extensive trial experience handling misdemeanor and felony cases in addition to handling juvenile and family violence cases. From 2003–2005, Judge Jones worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas; her primary focus was to pursue the federal government initiative of "Project Safe Neighborhoods" which focused

on the prosecution of armed felons and felons carrying firearms during drug trafficking crimes. In January of this year, Judge Jones was sworn in as a member of the local judiciary and we expect that her career will be no less stellar as that of her fellow alumna, Judge McDonald.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Howard University School of Law for its service to my District, to America, and to the world. For this reason, I strongly urge passage of this important Resolution.

SUPPORTING H.R. 2749, THE FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for reforming our food safety system. As a tireless advocate for consumers' rights, I have continually supported protecting our Nation's food supply. Over the last several years, our country has experienced food-borne illnesses stemming from E. coli in bagged spinach and a salmonella outbreak in peanut products. As the number of outbreaks rise, it's essential that we dramatically improve our food safety laws.

H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act, will take important and necessary steps to remove tainted food products from our food supply and improve accountability for large processing facilities. I strongly support provisions in this bill that grant the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, new authority to hold more frequent inspections of food processing facilities and the requirement that all food facilities register with the FDA annually. To better combat food-borne illnesses, H.R. 2749 will also enable the FDA to establish a food traceback system that will help public health officials identify the origin and path of food products when an outbreak occurs. Additionally, ensuring that imported foods are safe and that there are strong, flexible enforcement tools will restore Americans' confidence in the foods they purchase.

However, despite these bold and necessary improvements, I continue to believe that we need to do more to respect the unique needs of small and organic farmers in this legislation. This is why I ultimately voted against H.R. 2749.

Currently, organic farmers are required to adhere to strict traceability standards through the USDA's National Organic Program. The absence of specific guidance requiring FDA to harmonize new traceability standards with the National Organic Program will create potentially duplicative regulations and standards for organic farmers. The FDA's authority grew this year after Congress passed H.R. 1256, legislation I voted for, which enables the FDA to regulate tobacco products. After passing H.R. 2749, the FDA will also have expanded food safety authority. Without specific requirements included in this legislation, the FDA will not have the incentive or manpower to go above and beyond what is mandated in the law. We cannot overlook the requirements our organic farmers already follow as the FDA issues its traceability standards.

Additionally, I worry that the growth of the organics market could be constrained by fee

provisions in this bill. An increasing number of organic farmers sell to wholesalers as well as directly to consumers. This bill exempts farmers who sell their products directly to consumers from the annual fee, but not farmers who sell the majority of their products to wholesalers. By incentivizing organic producers to sell fewer than 51 percent of their products to wholesalers, we could be deterring organic farmers from branching out to new markets. This is not the time to be hindering the growth of organic farming by discouraging organic farmers from diversifying the markets where their products are sold.

This legislation also must take into account the relationship between the co-management of conservation and food safety. The use of animals for pest control is a crucial component of organic farming, and this bill would restrict farmers from maintaining their organic practices. Instead of regulating all animals, this legislation could investigate other alternatives, including focusing on animals that are at a high risk for passing on diseases, to take into account the needs of organic farmers. More should be done to encourage biodiversity and natural farming techniques that farmers have used to reduce their dependence on pesticides and herbicides.

Madam Speaker, food safety legislation must protect the health of consumers and respect the needs of family farms and sustainable producers. It is my hope that we can strengthen the provisions in H.R. 2749 affecting the unique needs of small and organic farmers when this bill is taken up in conference. I am encouraged by the work done to enhance the safety of our Nation's food supply, and look forward to continuing to improve this important legislation and our food delivery system.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
KASEY GERBER FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Kasey Gerber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Kasey Gerber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kasey Gerber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kasey Gerber on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JUDGE ALDEN EDWARD DANNER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, the Honorable Alden Edward Danner, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of public service to the State of California and the people of Santa Clara County.

Throughout his career, Judge Danner has demonstrated public service values, adhering to the highest ethical standards, respecting the dignity and integrity of all people, and sought solutions while fostering open communication and mutual support for court clients, staff, members of the judicial branch, and justice system partners.

Judge Danner applied his expertise in the law and his commitment to the administration of justice and the independent, consistent, and impartial interpretation of the law through his participation as a member of the Judicial Council of California's Task Force on Probate and Mental Health, 1997–1998; Court Technology Advisory Committee, 1999–2005; Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, 2003–2004, and its Executive Committee, 2005–2006; and the Task Force on Judicial Campaign Finance, 2009; and as faculty for the Center for Judicial Education and Research's Probate and Mental Health Institute, 1997–1998; and Computer Training for Judges, 1993–1998.

The California judicial branch is fortunate to have benefited from Judge Danner's distinguished service as a jurist since his appointment to the Superior Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1989 and his subsequent election by citizens of Santa Clara County.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Danner served our justice system with distinction, contributing to the resolution of legal issues for the people of Santa Clara County as an associate and partner in private law practice from 1966–1989. Judge Danner earned a Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1965, after service in the U.S. Army from 1958–1962.

It is with great pleasure that I join in celebrating Judge Danner's life and many accomplishments. I thank him for his contributions to our region in California and to our Nation. On behalf of our community, I congratulate Judge Danner and wish him and his family well in his retirement and his future plans.

**TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFIELD
INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY**

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a vital program to the Greater Fairfield area, the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry at the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Church. The Food Pantry has assisted innumerable members of this community, and I would like to take the opportunity of their celebration of sixteen years of service to congratulate them on their lasting impact.

At the celebration on October 3, 2009, the Fairfield Community will recognize and honor Nancy Marcoux, the Interfaith Food Pantry Director, and Richard "Dick" Tompkins, the Co-Director since the beginning. The work that Nancy and Richard have done is truly amazing. The volunteer staff and the clients appreciate and respect both of these hardworking individuals. They are known to everyone in the Greater Fairfield area, and when someone is in need of assistance, they do not hesitate to call Nancy or Dick and know that their doors will open.

The Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry works with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources which oversees The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a federal initiative that provides commodities to about 260 voluntary feeding programs in Maine. The Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry also receives assistance from the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department, says community services officer John Matthews. Under the Sheriff's Department program, incarcerated inmates harvest potatoes and mixed vegetables on 8 acres of fields in Augusta and Benton. The program was started by Sheriff Randy Liberty and yields fresh produce for the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry and other food banks in Maine.

Today is an opportunity to thank Nancy Marcoux and Dick Tompkins for their dedication to this program. In Nancy's words, "you got to do what you got to do to exist."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 22, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 720, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 441; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 721, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2971; "No" on rollcall vote No. 722, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3548.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 710–719 and rollcall vote 730. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 713–716, 718, and 719. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 710–712, 717, and 730.